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ABSTRACT

This report presents information obtained from three questions on the U.S. Census 2000 long form about coresident grandparents, focusing on data from people over age 29 years. Results indicated that the percentage of coresident grandparents varied sharply by race and Hispanic origin. More than half of American Indian and Alaska Native coresident grandparents and black coresident grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren. Younger grandparents were more likely to be responsible for their grandchildren. The west had the highest percentage of coresident grandparents. Counties in the midwest had some of the lowest coresident grandparent percentages. At the state level, Hawaii had the highest percentage of grandparents living with grandchildren, and North Dakota had the lowest. For many grandparent caregivers, this responsibility was a long-term commitment. San Diego, California, had the lowest percentage of coresident grandparents among the 10 largest cities in the United States. Of the 5.8 million coresident grandparents in 2000, 64 percent were women. Nearly all of grandparent caregivers were either the householder or the spouse of the householder. Nearly 20 percent of grandparent caregivers had incomes below the poverty level. (SM)

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Grandparents Living With Grandchildren: 2000

Issued October 2003

Census 2000 Brief

C2KBR-31

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Census 2000 enumerated 158.9 million people aged 30 and over living in households in the United States, of whom 5.8 million (or 3.6 percent) were coresident grandparents, defined in this report as living with grandchildren younger than 18.[1] Among these coresident grandparents, 2.4 million (42 percent) were also "grandparent caregivers," defined in this report as people who had primary responsibility for their coresident grandchildren younger than 18. Among grandparent caregivers, 39 percent had cared for their grandchildren for 5 or more years.

This report presents information obtained from three questions on the Census 2000 long form about coresident grandparents (Figure 1). As with most of the questions on the long form, these three were asked of all people aged 15 and over. However, this report shows data only for people aged 30 and over, since people under 30 are highly unlikely to have

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Questions on Grandparents Living With Grandchildren from Census 2000

19 **a. Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → *Skip to 20a*

b. Is this grandparent currently responsible for most of the basic needs of any grandchild(ren) under the age of 18 who live(s) in this house or apartment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → *Skip to 20a*

c. How long has this grandparent been responsible for the(se) grandchild(ren)? *If the grandparent is financially responsible for more than one grandchild, answer the question for the grandchild for whom the grandparent has been responsible for the longest period of time.*

- ☐ Less than 6 months
- ☐ 6 to 11 months
- ☐ 1 or 2 years
- ☐ 3 or 4 years
- ☐ 5 years or more

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

[1] The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 2 and Figure 3.

The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

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grandchildren.[2] The first question asked if the person was the grandparent of any grandchildren under 18 who were living in the same house. Those who answered "yes" were then asked if they were "currently responsible for most of the basic needs of one or more of these grandchildren." Grandparents who answered "yes" were further asked how long they had had this responsibility.

Census 2000 was the first time that questions on grandparental caregiving have been included in the decennial census. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) directed that this topic be included on Census 2000. The Congress wanted to find out about grandparents who were the primary caregivers for their grandchildren, and if this relationship was temporary or permanent. These three questions were selected to provide information on the extent to which grandparents act as caregivers to their coresident grandchildren.

This report is part of a series that presents population and housing data collected in Census 2000. The report presents data on the population aged 30 and over living in households with grandchildren. It describes population characteristics for regions, states, counties, and the ten largest cities in the United States. The report details the geographic distribution of coresident grandparents, of grandparent caregivers, and of the length of time that they have cared for their grandchildren. Differences in these grandparent-grandchild indicators are shown by race and Hispanic origin. The proportion living in poverty and the proportion of grandparent caregivers who were in households where the grandchild's parents were absent are also shown.

Differences in proportions of coresident grandparents and grandparent caregivers may be influenced by a variety of factors, including cultural differences in family structure (such as frequency of extended family households), differences in age distribution, migration patterns, racial and ethnic composition, housing shortages, high living costs, poverty levels, and local government policies on kinship care.

The percentage of coresident grandparents varied sharply by race and Hispanic origin.

Census 2000 asked respondents to choose one or more races. With the exception of the Two-or-more-races group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated *only one* racial identity among the six major categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race.[3] The use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.[4]

While 3.6 percent of all people aged 30 and over lived with their grandchildren, only 2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites did so (Table 1). Considerably higher proportions were found among other racial and ethnic groups: 6 percent of people who were Asian, 8 percent of people who were American Indian and Alaska Native, 8 percent of people who were Black, 8 percent of people who were Hispanic, and 10 percent of people who were Pacific Islanders.[5]

More than half of American Indian and Alaska Native coresident grandparents and Black coresident grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren.

While 8 percent each of the Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Hispanic populations aged 30 and over lived with grandchildren, Hispanics were less likely than Blacks or American Indians and Alaska Natives to be caregivers for

[2] This question was among a set of questions asked of all people aged 15 and over, but the tabulation universe for these data is people aged 30 and over who are living in households. The data in this report are only presented for people aged 30 and over, as very few people under 30 are grandparents. Data are shown only for people in households, as some of the characteristics used in this report (for example, relationship) are only available for household members, not for those living in group quarters such as nursing homes.

[3] For further information on each of the six major race groups and the Two or more races population, see reports from the Census 2000 Brief series (C2KBR/01), available on the Census 2000 Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html.*

[4] This report draws heavily on Summary File 3, a Census 2000 product that can be accessed through American FactFinder, available from the Census Bureau's Web site, *www.census.gov.* Information on people who reported more than one race, such as "White ***and*** American Indian and Alaska Native" or "Asian ***and*** Black or African American," can be found in Summary File 4, which is also available through American FactFinder. About 2.6 percent of people reported more than one race.

[5] Hereafter, this report uses the term Black to refer to people who are Black or African American, the term Pacific Islander to refer to people who are Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and the term Hispanic to refer to people who are Hispanic or Latino.

Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion Hispanic was 8.0 percent for Whites, 1.9 percent for Blacks, 14.6 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives, 1.0 percent for Asians, 9.5 percent for Pacific Islanders, 97.1 percent for those reporting Some other race, and 31.1 percent for those reporting Two or more races.

Table 1.
Grandparents Living With Grandchildren, Responsible for Coresident Grandchildren, and Duration of Responsibility by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)

Characteristic	Total	Race							Hispanic origin		
		White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some other race alone	Two or more races	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	Not Hispanic or Latino	
										Total	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
Population 30 years old and over	158,881,037	126,715,472	16,484,644	1,127,455	5,631,301	169,331	5,890,748	2,862,086	14,618,891	144,262,146	119,063,492
Grandparents living with grandchildren	5,771,671	3,219,409	1,358,699	90,524	359,709	17,014	567,486	158,830	1,221,661	4,550,010	2,654,788
Percent of population 30 and over	3.6	2.5	8.2	8.0	6.4	10.0	9.6	5.5	8.4	3.2	2.2
Responsible for grandchildren	2,426,730	1,340,809	702,595	50,765	71,791	6,587	191,107	63,076	424,304	2,002,426	1,142,006
Percent of coresident grandparents	42.0	41.6	51.7	56.1	20.0	38.7	33.7	39.7	34.7	44.0	43.0
By duration of care (percent)[1]											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 6 months	12.1	12.6	9.8	13.0	13.6	12.7	15.6	13.5	14.6	11.5	12.4
6 to 11 months	10.8	11.6	9.3	10.5	11.0	8.4	11.4	11.2	11.2	10.7	11.6
1 to 2 years	23.2	23.8	21.2	22.5	25.2	23.8	26.1	23.4	25.1	22.8	23.6
3 to 4 years	15.4	15.8	14.6	13.9	17.6	11.7	15.7	16.0	15.8	15.3	15.7
5 years or more	38.5	36.3	45.2	40.0	32.7	43.3	31.1	35.9	33.3	39.6	36.6

[1]Percent duration based on grandparents responsible for grandchildren. Percent distribution may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 4.

these grandchildren: 35 percent compared with 52 percent and 56 percent, respectively. Asian coresident grandparents were least likely to be responsible for their grandchildren (20 percent).

These statistics suggest that while residential or cultural patterns may account for large proportions of Asians and Hispanics living in multigenerational households, Asian and Hispanic grandparents were less likely to be responsible for their grandchildren and in some cases may have been dependent themselves.

Among grandparent caregivers, 12 percent had cared for grandchildren for fewer than 6 months; 11 percent for 6 to 11 months; 23 percent for 1 to 2 years; 15 percent for 3 to 4 years; and 39 percent for 5 or more years.

The percent distribution of the duration of time responsible varied by race and ethnicity. Black, Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native grandparent caregivers had the highest percentages responsible for their grandchildren for 5 years or more, all about 40 percent or higher, contrasting with only about 33 percent each for Asian and Hispanic grandparent caregivers.

Younger grandparents were more likely to be responsible for their grandchildren.

In 2000, 3.5 million coresident grandparents were younger than 60, while 2.3 million were aged 60 and over. Figure 2 shows that coresident grandparents who were under 60 years were more likely to be responsible for their grandchildren (50 percent) than coresident grandparents who were aged 60 and over (31 percent).

Among grandparent caregivers, a greater percentage of those aged 60 and over had cared for their grandchildren for 5 years or more (55 percent), compared with those younger than 60 (32 percent).[6]

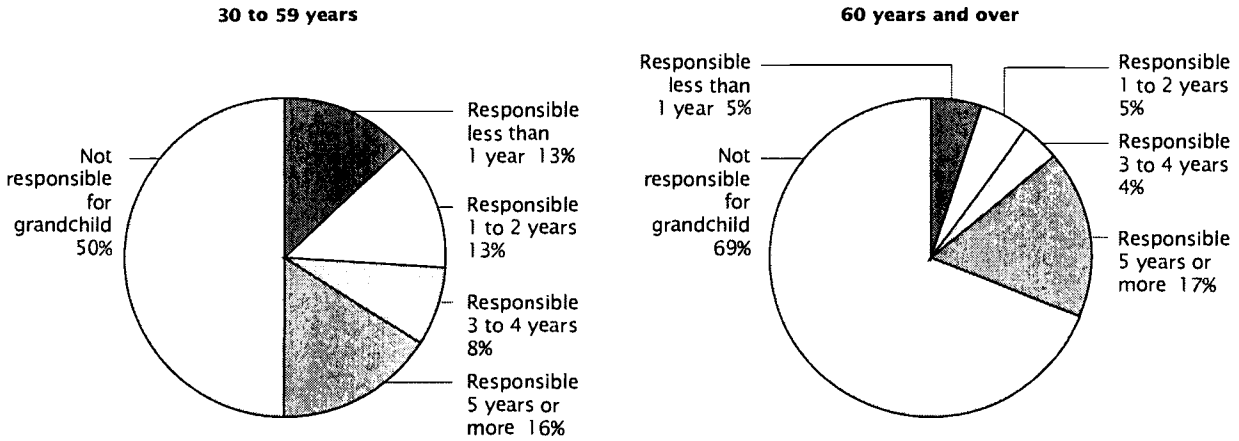
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CORESIDENT GRANDPARENTS

The West had the highest percentage of coresident grandparents.

Regional and state differences in percentages of grandparent-grandchildren coresidence, responsibility, and duration of responsibility reflect the variety of factors

[6] These data come from a special tabulation not shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2.
Length of Time Coresident Grandparents Were Responsible for Grandchildren by Age of Grandparents: 2000
(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Sample special tabulations.

mentioned previously, such as migration patterns and racial compositions in different areas.[7] The proportion of people aged 30 and over in the United States who were coresident grandparents ranged from a high of 4.3 percent in the West to a low of 2.7 percent in the Midwest (Table 2). At the state level, Hawaii had the highest percentage of grandparents living with grandchildren (7 percent), while North Dakota had the lowest (1.3 percent).

[7] The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The South had the highest percentage of grandparent caregivers (48 percent), while the Northeast had the lowest (34 percent). At the state level, the highest percentages of grandparent caregivers were about 55 to 59 percent, with Oklahoma and Wyoming among the highest. The lowest percentages of grandparent caregivers among states were about 28 to 31 percent, with Hawaii and Massachusetts among the lowest.

For many grandparent caregivers, this responsibility is a long term commitment.

In 2000, 39 percent of grandparent caregivers had been responsible for their grandchildren for 5 or more years. Regionally, the South and the Northeast had the highest percentages responsible for 5 or more years (about 40 percent), while the West had the lowest (35 percent). A large percentage of grandparent caregivers were responsible for 5 or more years in the District of Columbia (53 percent).

At the other end of the spectrum, 23 percent of grandparent caregivers in the United States had been responsible for their grandchildren for less than a year. Regionally, the West and the Midwest were most likely to have such grandparents (about 24 percent each), while the Northeast had the lowest percentage (21 percent).

Counties in the Midwest had some of the lowest percentages of coresident grandparents.

Counties in the Midwest and the upper Northeast generally had the lowest percentages of coresident grandparents, while counties in the South and the Southwest had the highest percentages (Figure 3). These differences are probably related to the fact that higher proportions of non-Hispanic Whites reside in the Midwest. As previously shown in Table 1, non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest percentage of coresident grandparents (2 percent).

Relatively high proportions of coresident grandparents lived in

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Table 2.
Selected Characteristics of Grandparents Living With Grandchildren for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)

Area	Grandparents living with grandchildren			Grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren								Households with grandparents living with grandchildren	
				Percent distribution of time responsible[2]				Percent who were:[2]					
								Householder or spouse					
	Number	Percent of population 30 years and over	Percent responsible[1]	Less than 1 year	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 or more years	Total	And with no parent present[3]	Aged 60 and over	In poverty in 1999	Number	Percent of all households
United States	5,771,671	3.6	42.0	22.9	23.2	15.4	38.5	93.8	34.0	29.1	18.8	4,104,201	3.9
Region													
Northeast	1,006,496	3.2	34.3	21.4	23.0	15.6	40.1	91.7	30.8	32.8	19.4	747,254	3.7
Midwest	991,295	2.7	44.4	24.4	24.0	15.6	36.0	95.2	35.4	27.0	15.0	702,239	2.8
South	2,302,754	4.1	48.3	21.9	22.6	15.1	40.5	95.1	36.8	28.0	21.4	1,632,248	4.3
West	1,471,126	4.3	36.0	24.8	24.1	15.8	35.3	91.1	28.7	30.9	15.9	1,022,460	4.6
State													
Alabama	100,765	4.0	55.9	19.6	21.7	15.4	43.4	96.7	39.6	29.5	25.9	71,438	4.1
Alaska	10,423	3.2	52.0	25.4	23.8	12.3	38.5	95.9	33.7	32.6	11.5	7,224	3.3
Arizona	114,990	4.1	45.4	24.4	26.4	17.0	32.2	93.8	27.4	25.9	19.6	79,651	4.2
Arkansas	57,895	3.8	58.1	24.0	21.2	15.1	39.7	96.6	45.0	28.3	22.9	39,662	3.8
California	928,290	5.1	31.8	23.9	23.5	16.0	36.6	89.0	25.4	32.9	16.2	650,257	5.6
Colorado	66,903	2.8	42.6	25.9	24.0	15.0	35.1	94.3	34.5	25.3	13.1	45,963	2.8
Connecticut	55,489	2.7	34.1	24.8	21.7	14.9	38.7	92.5	34.3	31.1	16.5	41,210	3.2
Delaware	16,689	3.7	43.2	19.3	22.0	13.3	45.3	96.2	38.4	27.0	13.8	11,924	4.0
District of Columbia	16,842	5.3	48.6	15.9	19.0	11.7	53.4	93.6	37.2	40.5	23.8	13,499	5.4
Florida	345,949	3.5	42.7	22.4	22.8	15.1	39.7	93.3	35.2	31.4	18.9	251,851	4.0
Georgia	193,825	4.4	47.6	22.2	22.5	14.7	40.6	94.9	36.1	25.9	20.5	139,832	4.6
Hawaii	49,237	7.0	28.5	19.7	19.7	16.2	44.4	89.5	21.5	39.9	10.9	32,182	8.0
Idaho	17,447	2.5	46.5	30.2	22.0	18.3	29.5	96.8	42.6	27.3	14.3	11,454	2.4
Illinois	258,038	3.7	40.2	21.7	23.7	16.3	38.3	92.2	28.4	29.8	17.1	187,805	4.1
Indiana	96,169	2.8	50.1	23.7	23.5	16.1	36.8	96.5	39.0	23.7	12.7	66,113	2.8
Iowa	28,201	1.7	46.4	27.2	26.2	15.7	30.9	96.3	42.2	26.4	11.8	18,875	1.6
Kansas	35,274	2.4	50.7	26.1	27.1	15.1	31.7	95.5	37.8	24.4	13.2	23,983	2.3
Kentucky	69,504	3.0	51.5	22.9	22.3	15.2	39.6	97.3	45.4	25.9	22.4	47,807	3.0
Louisiana	122,240	5.1	54.9	21.2	23.0	14.6	41.1	96.1	33.5	27.4	30.3	88,135	5.3
Maine	13,053	1.7	38.9	27.4	23.4	14.6	34.5	96.2	50.6	28.1	15.4	8,950	1.7
Maryland	125,697	4.1	40.6	18.7	19.9	16.0	45.4	93.4	33.9	30.7	13.9	92,764	4.7
Massachusetts	98,325	2.6	28.4	21.4	24.4	16.9	37.3	92.5	31.7	29.3	15.7	71,744	2.9
Michigan	166,705	3.0	42.0	25.3	24.3	15.5	34.9	95.7	32.8	26.9	14.6	120,147	3.2
Minnesota	45,217	1.6	39.1	28.7	26.5	14.9	29.9	95.1	33.9	23.8	10.4	31,569	1.7
Mississippi	84,157	5.5	57.1	20.0	22.0	16.9	41.2	96.2	32.9	25.5	30.0	60,914	5.8
Missouri	90,200	2.8	48.7	25.6	22.7	14.7	36.9	96.5	40.4	29.2	15.3	63,428	2.9
Montana	11,098	2.1	54.5	28.5	25.0	13.4	33.0	97.0	40.0	31.1	20.4	7,483	2.1
Nebraska	17,401	1.8	48.6	28.0	25.8	15.2	31.1	95.0	41.4	27.9	11.5	12,001	1.8
Nevada	45,286	4.0	41.3	25.1	25.5	14.9	34.4	91.9	33.2	29.2	11.1	32,295	4.3
New Hampshire	14,660	2.0	30.9	25.6	27.3	12.3	34.8	96.3	39.8	24.2	8.2	10,283	2.2
New Jersey	185,771	3.7	31.6	19.8	21.3	16.2	42.7	89.6	27.3	35.5	15.8	138,638	4.5
New Mexico	46,014	4.6	52.2	26.7	23.4	13.2	36.7	95.6	30.4	26.8	26.5	31,703	4.7
New York	412,000	3.8	34.7	20.7	23.0	15.5	40.8	89.8	27.8	34.4	23.2	311,524	4.4
North Carolina	160,576	3.5	49.7	20.0	21.7	15.4	42.9	95.7	42.6	28.2	19.4	113,952	3.6
North Dakota	4,645	1.3	54.8	29.3	24.9	16.4	29.4	98.2	40.6	26.3	19.4	3,168	1.2
Ohio	185,443	2.8	46.4	23.3	22.8	15.7	38.2	96.6	39.5	26.5	15.1	129,822	2.9
Oklahoma	67,194	3.5	58.5	24.1	23.1	15.4	37.5	97.1	45.9	28.8	19.9	45,666	3.4
Oregon	51,169	2.6	43.2	28.9	23.6	15.4	32.1	93.2	42.5	30.6	13.1	35,540	2.7
Pennsylvania	204,909	2.8	39.2	21.9	23.5	15.3	39.3	95.4	35.0	30.4	18.5	148,794	3.1
Rhode Island	16,957	2.8	29.8	25.7	25.0	15.0	34.3	93.9	36.3	29.7	16.7	12,281	3.0
South Carolina	99,558	4.4	52.0	20.1	21.6	13.7	44.6	96.5	39.7	27.7	23.5	71,229	4.6
South Dakota	8,019	1.9	57.8	27.3	21.2	13.2	38.3	96.7	38.2	28.1	28.8	5,683	2.0
Tennessee	119,968	3.7	51.1	20.9	21.6	16.1	41.4	96.1	41.6	26.0	19.8	84,264	3.8
Texas	551,047	5.1	46.7	24.0	24.1	15.1	36.8	94.2	31.6	26.4	21.9	379,217	5.1
Utah	39,564	3.9	40.4	28.4	27.8	14.0	29.8	95.8	27.7	27.2	8.8	25,511	3.6
Vermont	5,332	1.5	36.3	26.9	25.6	12.6	35.0	96.2	48.6	30.0	10.1	3,830	1.6
Virginia	140,015	3.4	42.5	20.4	22.3	15.0	42.3	94.9	39.3	29.0	15.0	99,528	3.7
Washington	84,592	2.5	41.8	26.7	25.9	16.7	30.7	93.3	38.3	28.3	13.9	59,147	2.6
West Virginia	30,833	2.8	52.4	22.3	23.4	13.9	40.4	97.6	42.3	27.3	22.6	20,566	2.8
Wisconsin	55,983	1.8	42.3	27.8	27.1	14.8	30.3	94.9	34.8	23.1	15.4	39,645	1.9
Wyoming	6,113	2.2	58.6	30.5	20.9	15.5	33.1	95.8	38.3	26.0	12.9	4,050	2.1
Puerto Rico	133,881	6.7	52.5	19.1	21.0	15.1	44.8	96.4	26.9	33.6	58.3	92,568	7.3

[1]Percent based on all grandparents living with grandchildren.

[2]Percent based on all grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren.

[3]No parent present is defined as a household where the grandparent is the householder or spouse, a person under 18 is the grandchild of the householder, and no adult child of the householder is present in the household.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3, special tabulations.

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Table 3.
Selected Characteristics of Grandparents Living With Grandchildren for the Ten Largest Cities: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

City	Population		Grandparents living with grandchildren		Coresident grandparents responsible for grandchildren			
							Responsible 5 or more years	
	Total	30 years and over	Number	Percent of population 30 years and over	Number	Percent of coresident grandparents	Number	Percent of grandparent caregivers
New York, NY	8,008,278	4,498,961	229,133	5.1	83,946	36.6	35,626	42.4
Los Angeles, CA	3,694,834	1,926,225	107,586	5.6	30,511	28.4	11,184	36.7
Chicago, IL	2,895,964	1,502,733	101,234	6.7	41,328	40.8	17,670	42.8
Houston, TX	1,954,848	995,311	57,190	5.7	25,347	44.3	10,449	41.2
Philadelphia, PA	1,517,550	826,209	51,159	6.2	21,123	41.3	9,133	43.2
Phoenix, AZ	1,320,994	666,219	32,129	4.8	13,262	41.3	4,323	32.6
San Diego, CA	1,223,341	656,178	28,945	4.4	8,840	30.5	3,072	34.8
Dallas, TX	1,188,204	592,605	32,640	5.5	15,019	46.0	5,791	38.6
San Antonio, TX	1,144,554	592,379	37,267	6.3	15,075	40.5	5,515	36.6
Detroit, MI	951,270	475,496	38,775	8.2	17,086	44.1	6,827	40.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

the Mississippi delta area. It also is a part of the country with relatively high proportions of nonmarital births, which may be associated with mothers and their children living with the mother's parents.[8]

High percentages of coresident grandparents were also noted in the Southwest and the coastal areas of the West. These areas have large immigrant populations from Asia and Latin America, who may live in extended family situations that increase the likelihood of households with coresident grandparents. Some other counties with relatively high percentages are noted in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, and New Mexico, which contain American Indian reservations.

San Diego, California, had the lowest percentage of coresident grandparents among the ten largest cities in the United States.

The proportion of coresident grandparents among the ten largest cities in the United States ranged from 4 percent in San Diego, California, to 8 percent in Detroit, Michigan (Table 3). San Diego also had one of the highest percentages of non-Hispanic Whites among the ten largest cities (49 percent), and nationally, non-Hispanic Whites (aged 30 and over) had the lowest percentage of coresident grandparents.[9]

Los Angeles, which had one of the lowest percentages of grandparent caregivers, also had one of the highest percentages of Asians among the ten largest cities (10 percent), and nationally, Asians (aged 30 and over) were less likely to be primarily responsible for coresident grandchildren. The percentage of grandparent caregivers responsible for their grandchildren for 5 or more years ranged from 33 percent to 43 percent among the cities.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

What are the age and sex distributions of coresident grandparents?

Of the 5.8 million coresident grandparents in 2000, 64 percent were women (Table 4). This percentage did not differ much by whether a grandparent was a caregiver or how long they had been a caregiver, ranging from 61 percent to 66 percent.

Only 5 percent of coresident grandparents were aged 30 to 39, reflecting the low probability of being a grandparent at this early age, while the highest percentage was those aged 50 to 59

[8] Joyce A. Martin, Brady A. Hamilton, Stephanie J. Ventura, Fay Menacker, and Melissa A. Park, "Births: Final Data for 2000," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 50, No. 5. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2002, Table 19.

[9] Data on the percent distribution of the total population by race and Hispanic origin come from Table DP-1, "Profile of Demographic Characteristics: 2000," in the Demographic Profiles. To find this table, visit our Web site at *factfinder.census.gov.*

Table 4.
Grandparents Living With Grandchildren, Responsible for Coresident Grandchildren, and Duration of Responsibility by Sex and Age: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)

Characteristic	Total	Sex		Age					
		Male	Female	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 and over
Grandparents living with grandchildren	5,771,671	2,054,842	3,716,829	269,694	1,360,278	1,824,500	1,378,378	733,440	205,381
Not responsible for grandchildren	3,344,941	1,149,167	2,195,774	108,042	652,229	973,623	869,621	560,969	180,457
Responsible for grandchildren	2,426,730	905,675	1,521,055	161,652	708,049	850,877	508,757	172,471	24,924
Percent Distribution[1]									
Grandparents living with grandchildren	100.0	35.6	64.4	4.7	23.6	31.6	23.9	12.7	3.6
Not responsible for grandchildren	100.0	34.4	65.6	3.2	19.5	29.1	26.0	16.8	5.4
Responsible for grandchildren	100.0	37.3	62.7	6.7	29.2	35.1	21.0	7.1	1.0
Percent Distribution[1] by Duration of Time Responsible									
Less than 6 months	100.0	38.4	61.6	14.8	39.4	27.9	12.9	4.3	0.7
6 to 11 months	100.0	38.7	61.3	11.9	37.3	30.7	14.8	4.6	0.6
1 to 2 years	100.0	38.3	61.7	10.5	37.8	31.6	15.0	4.5	0.6
3 to 4 years	100.0	38.0	62.0	5.0	32.8	36.0	19.4	6.0	0.9
5 years or more	100.0	35.7	64.3	1.0	17.1	40.3	29.5	10.7	1.5

[1]Percentages are based on the totals in the first column. Percent distribution may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3, special tabulations.

(32 percent). Those aged 80 and over made up only 4 percent of coresident grandparents.

In general, the age distribution of grandparent caregivers was younger than that of coresident grandparents not responsible for grandchildren. Seven percent of grandparent caregivers were aged 30 to 39, whereas 35 percent were aged 50 to 59, and only 1 percent were aged 80 and over.

The age distribution of grandparent caregivers varied with the length of time responsible. For example, caregivers aged 30 to 39 accounted for 15 percent of durations under 6 months and only 1 percent of durations of 5 years or more. In contrast, the corresponding proportions for caregivers aged 60 to 69 accounted for 13 percent of durations under 6 months and 30 percent of durations of 5 years or more.

Are grandparent caregivers more likely to be the householder/spouse or another relative of the householder? What proportion of grandparent caregivers who are householders or spouses live without the parents of the grandchildren — the middle generation?

In Census 2000, a householder was defined as the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned or rented. The vast majority (94 percent) of grandparent caregivers were either the householder or the spouse of the householder (Table 2). Further, 34 percent of grandparent caregivers were householders or spouses who were living with their grandchildren without the presence of the parents of their grandchildren. These households are often designated as "skipped generation households."[10]

Grandparent caregivers in the South and Midwest regions were slightly more likely to be the householder or spouse (95 percent) than grandparent caregivers in the Northeast (92 percent) and the West (91 percent).

Among grandparent caregivers who were householders or spouses, the proportion who were in skipped-generation households was greater in the South (37 percent) and the Midwest (35 percent) than in the Northeast (31 percent) and the West (29 percent). Among

[10] This terminology is more fully described in: Esme Fuller-Thomson, Meredith Minkler, and Diane Driver, "A Profile of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in the United States," *The Gerontologist*, Vol. 37, No. 3, (1997), pp. 406-411.

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the states, Hawaii had the lowest percentage (22 percent). This low percentage coincides with Hawaii's below-average percentage of grandparent caregivers (29 percent). Grandparents are probably less likely to be responsible for grandchildren if the grandchildren's parents are present.

How many grandparent caregivers were in poverty?

The 1996 PRWORA, which was designed to address elements of the welfare system of the country, directed the Census Bureau to ask questions on grandparents in Census 2000. Earlier research suggests that grandparent-maintained families are more likely to be poor than parent-maintained families containing grandparents and grandchildren.[11] Census 2000 showed that, on average, 19 percent of grandparent caregivers had incomes below the poverty level in the United States in 1999. While not a direct comparison, only 14 percent of families with related children were living in poverty.[12]

The proportion of grandparent caregivers living in poverty was highest in the South (21 percent), and in some states it was as high as 30 percent.

How many households contained coresident grandparents?

The number of *households* with coresident grandparents is different from the number of *people* who are coresident grandparents. In 2000, 4.1 million households included coresident grandparents, but these households contained 5.8 million coresident grandparents (Table 2). In other words, some households had more than one grandparent (for example, households where a grandparent was married and living with a spouse who was also a grandparent). Among households with coresident grandparents, 59 percent had only one grandparent present, 40 percent had two, and only 0.6 percent had three or more.[13]

Households where grandparents lived with at least one grandchild under 18 represented 3.9 percent of all households in 2000. Although more households with coresident grandparents were in the South (1.6 million) than in the other regions, the highest percentage of households with coresident grandparents was in the West (4.6 percent). The state with the highest proportion of households with coresident grandparents in 2000 was Hawaii, at 8 percent. In North Dakota, only 1 percent of all households were this type.

FUTURE DATA ON GRANDPARENT CAREGIVERS

The data presented here do not show whether or not grandparent caregiving is a growing trend because this question was asked for the first time in Census 2000. However, annual data from the American Community Survey, which includes the same series of questions, provides information on trends in this type of living arrangement. These data are available at *www.census.gov/acs/www/*.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why did Census 2000 ask about grandparents as caregivers?

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (13 U.S.C., Chapter 5, Section 142), passed in the 104th Congress, required the Census Bureau to obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren. To distinguish between households in which a grandparent temporarily provides a home for a grandchild and households in which a grandparent provides shelter and care on a long-term basis, an additional question asked about the duration of time that this care had been provided.

Accuracy of the Estimates

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and

[11] Ken Bryson, and Lynne M. Casper, *Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren*, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Special Studies, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999.

[12] These data come from Table P90, "Poverty Status in 1999 of Families by Family Type by Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years by Age of Related Children," in Summary File 3. To find this table, visit our Web site at *factfinder.census.gov*.

[13] These data come from a special tabulation not shown in the tables of this report.

100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 3 Technical Documentation* under Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at *www.census.gov/prod /cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.*

All statements in this Census 2000 Brief have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables, maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different category. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at *www.census.gov/prod /cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.* For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

For More Information

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available from the American FactFinder on the Internet (*factfinder.census.gov*). Data on grandparents as caregivers from Census 2000 Summary File 3 were released on a state-by-state basis during 2002. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see *www.census.gov /prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf* or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www /cen2000/briefs.html.* This series presents information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing characteristics, such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.

For additional information on grandparents and grandchildren in the United States, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at *www.census.gov/population/www /socdemo/grandparents.html.* To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail *webmaster@census.gov.*

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